

Balkan Network Update

AUTh FMRS and i-BEC
National and Regional Activities

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Presentation Structure

- i-BECs strategic partnerships and global activities
- i-BECs Civil Protection (forest fire) related activities
- AUTh – iBEC: existing projects and on-going proposals
- Future actions
- EARSeL FFSIG forthcoming workshop announcement

i-BECs role and strategic partnerships

Role

- i-BEC is an international center that focuses on the monitoring of the environment and the protection of natural resources
- The Center acts as a bridge between the public and the private sector both at national and international level

Strategic partnerships (so far)

International

- GEO (representing the Balkan region)
- Global Soil Partnership

National

- Greek Center of Security Studies (KEMEA)
- SI-Cluster

Private Sector

- Airbus - Astrium
- Hexagon Geospatial



i-BECs Global activities and regional representation

Global activities (so far)

- Organizes the EGTC 'INEU-Innovative Europe'
- Works with the 'Watershed Research Institute' - USA
- Develops actions with the Black-Sea Region, Europe and USA in co-funded projects
- Participation in the validation of GlobalLand30

Regional network

- Close cooperation with Cyprus, Albania, FYROM, Bulgaria, Israel and Lebanon

Regional i-BEC offices

- FYROM (Skopje)
- Bulgaria (Sofia)
- Albania (Tirana)

i-BEC: Civil Protection related actions (incl. Fire)

- Management and provision of environmental data and indicators to appropriate authorities and the public, acting as a focal point
- Operation of IT hubs for management of environmental data from transboundary watersheds and creation of archives using state of the art geo-databases and digital infrastructures such as cloud computing
- server consolidation
- Focal point for monitoring fires in the Balkan region (through the establishment of the Balkan Wildland Fire Observatory)
- Operational plan for establishing an Observatory for Rural Development Interventions
- Member of relative clusters such as the Greek Center of Security Studies (KEMEA)

AUTh – i-BEC: existing projects and on-going proposals

Funded

- National Observatory of Forest Fires (Hellenic Ministry of Environment Energy and Climate Change – Green Fund) Budget: 210K
- National Observatory of Forests (Hellenic Ministry of Environment Energy and Climate Change – Green Fund) Budget: 137K
- NFOFRAS (General Secretariat for Research and Technology – PLANETEK and Geosystems Hellas with i-BEC as subcontractor) Budget: 108K (*JUST STARTED*)

Under preparation

- European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC)

Under investigation

- Our participation in the 2nd phase of the ESA Fire_CCI



The National Observatory of Forest Fires (NOFFi)



Objectives:

1st Phase

- Development of a methodology for 'Fuel Type Mapping and regular update' (National Level)
- Development of a Regional Forest Fire Danger Index
- Operational Burned Area Mapping at National Level

2nd Phase

- Knowledge transfer and dissemination to the Balkan countries (expert meetings, workshops, etc.) using the i-BEC network and national offices
- Creation of a 'Portal – PPGIS' to be used by all collaborating organisations in the region
- Establishment of the 'Balkan Wildland Fire Observatory'



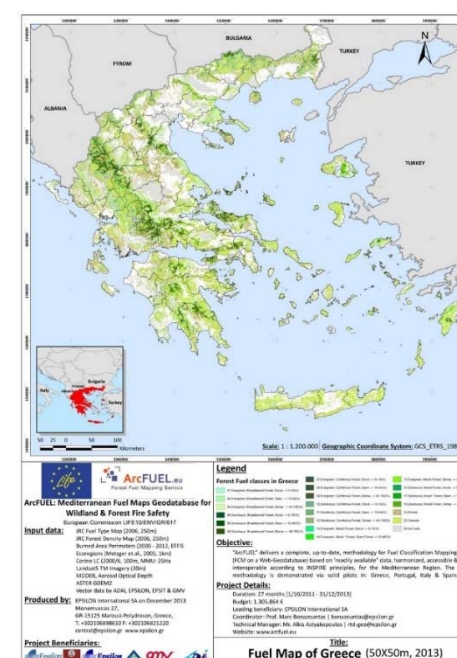
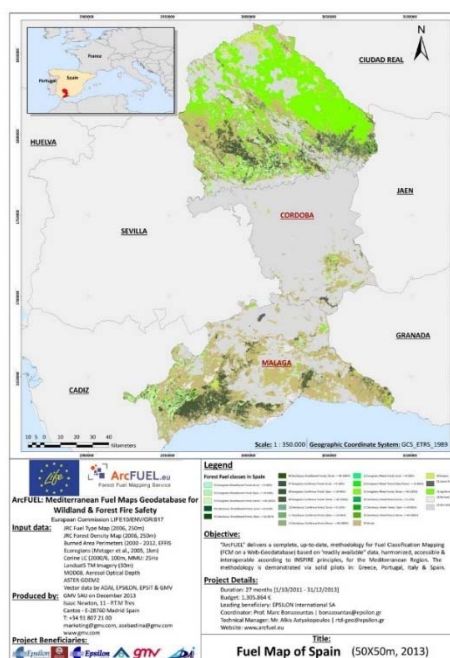
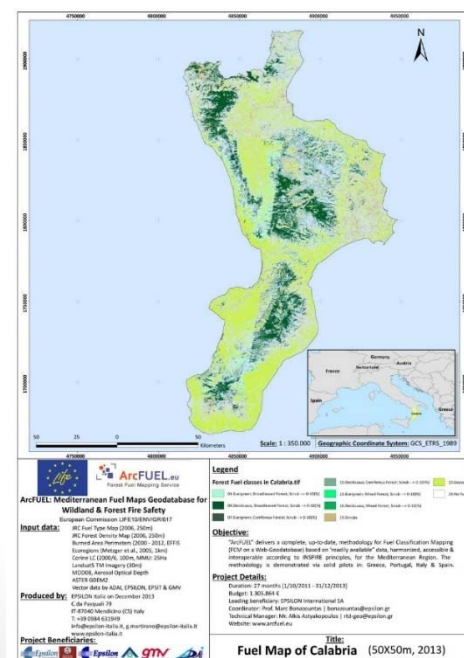
NOFFi Fuel type mapping



Εθνικό
Παρατηρητήριο
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Fuel Type Mapping

The methodology that was recently developed by FMRS within the frame of the ArcFuel EU LIFE project (<http://www.arcfuel.eu/index.php/en/>) will be further improved.





NOFFi Fuel type mapping (2)



So far:

- DMC winter and summer mosaics have been created
- The fuel type classification scheme has been defined





NOFFi - Regional Forest Fire Danger Index



Initial actions:

- Collaboration with national fire experts such as Prof. A. Dimitrakopoulos and G. Eftychides has been established
- A one day meeting with the Civil Protection Agency of Greece who is responsible for the national Daily Fire Danger Index was organised – the collaboration is necessary but **not an easy** task
- Communication with Emilio Chuvieco's group and the JRC team in order to ensure international support. **Any volunteers?**

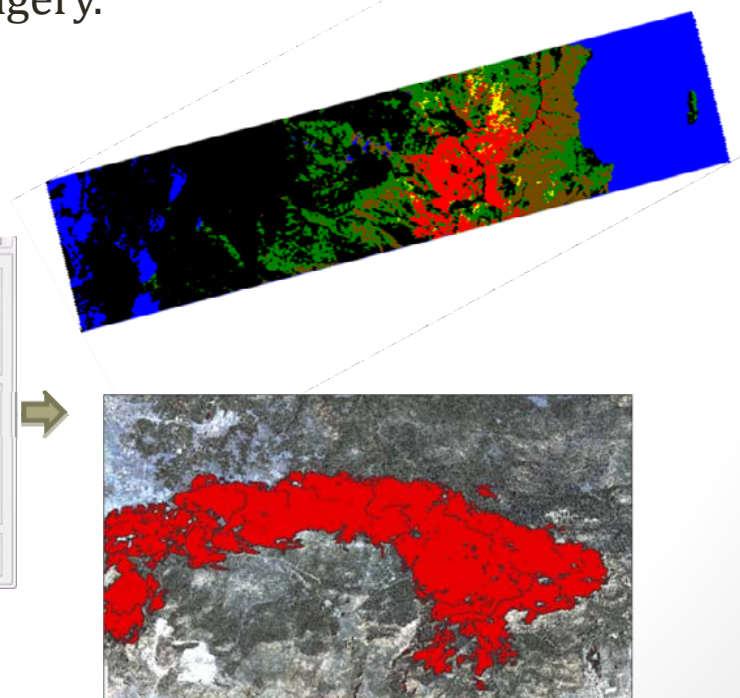
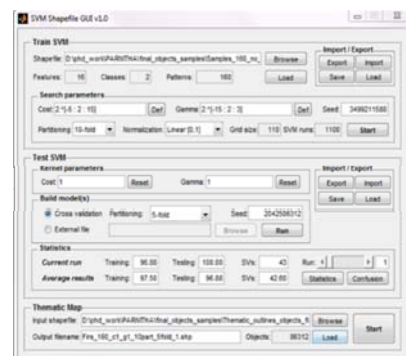
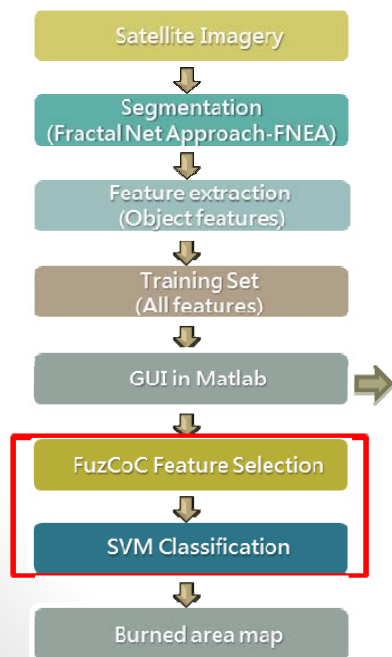


NOFFi - Operational Burned Area Mapping



So far:

- A semi-automated methodology for mapping burned areas (in-house developed using MATLAB) is already in use.
- The method proved to work well with high (Landsat type) and very high resolution (IKONOS type) imagery.



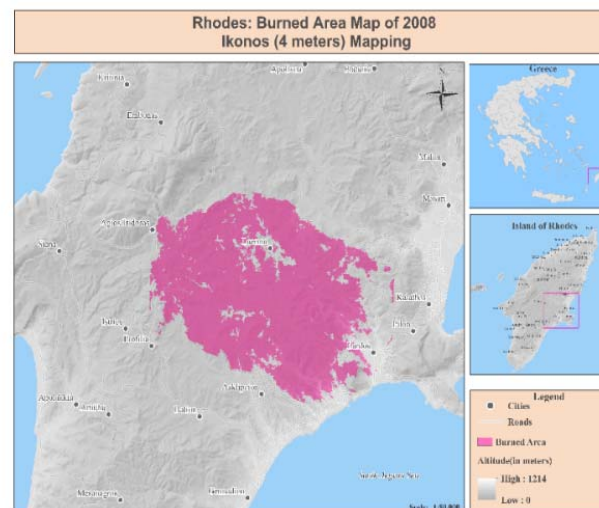
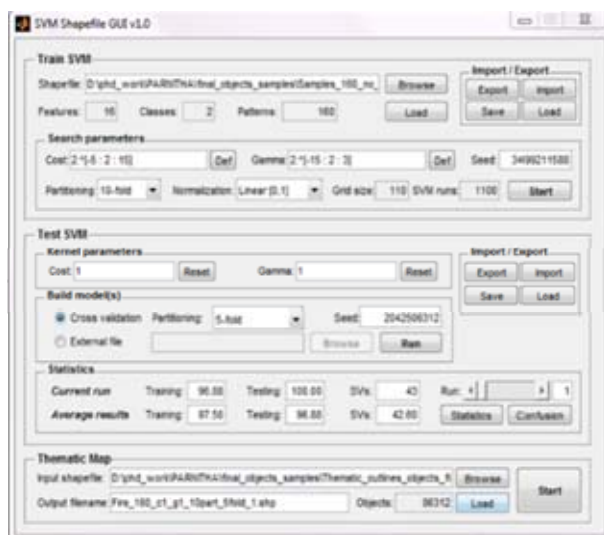


NOFFi - Operational Burned Area Mapping (2)



Next step:

- A stand alone application easy to be used by non-experts is planned to be developed in the second phase of the project.
- Validation with official products.



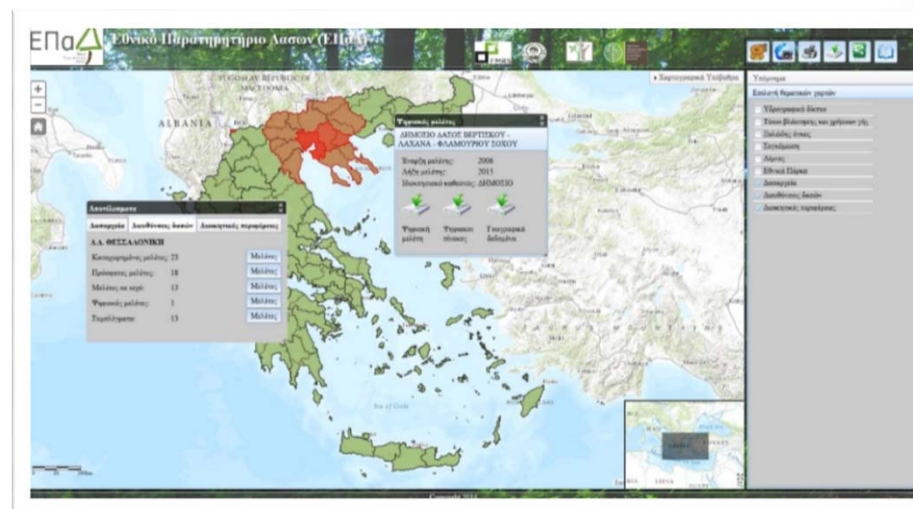
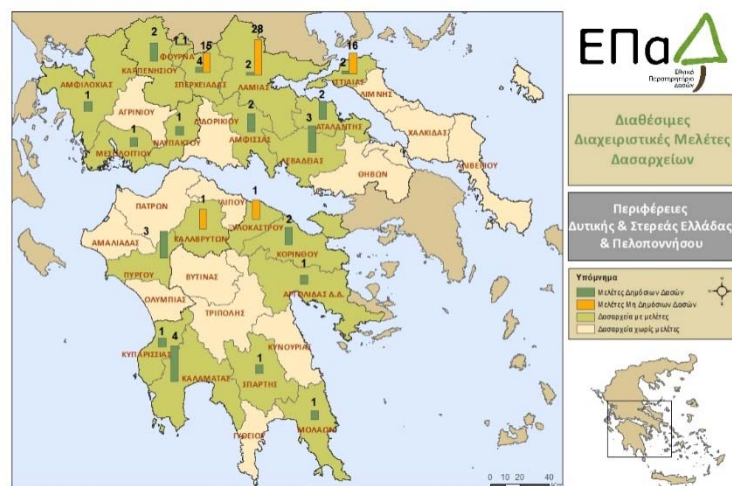


The National Observatory of Forests (NOF)



Objectives:

- Collection and homogenization of recent and historical forest management plans at National level.
- Development of a web-GIS portal for the Greek Forest Service.
- Provide an overview useful for national planning and to support international reporting obligations (e.g. Kyoto protocol)



NFOFRAS

- It is an industry driven project (PLANETEK Hellas and Geosystems Hellas) which is supported by the Greek government through the General Secretariat for Research and Technology.
- The objective is to select a number of GCOS Terrestrial Essential Climate Variables and/or supplementary data related to fire disturbance and especially to fire danger assessment (e.g. LC and fuel information, vegetation measurements) and focus on the improvement of the fire product at a national level, as addressed within the GCOS implementation plan.
- The industrial partners are expected to create viable international business opportunities pertaining to technology transfer services and continuous upgrade of the relevant products.

Future actions

- Closer collaboration with GOFC-GOLD (resulting from this meeting)
- Collaboration could be related to fire management, emissions estimation, and burned area product validation among others
- Work with NASA in the establishment of SEMRIN (the South Eastern Mediterranean Research Initiative Network)
- Other

EARSeL FFSIG announcement



10th EARSeL Forest Fire SIG Workshop

8/1/2014

10th EARSeL Forest Fire Workshop

Cyprus – late Oct 2015



The workshop will take place in a beach hotel overlooking the beautiful Mediterranean sea





- Cyprus has over 10,000 years of history, due to its strategic location as a cross-road between Europe, Asia and Africa, with a rich history of settlements by the Greeks, Egyptians, Mycenaeans, Phoenicians, Persians and Romans.



10th EARSeL Forest Fire Workshop (Cyprus – 2015)



Mark your calendars and register early. We look forward to seeing you in Cyprus!

Thank you very much for your attention !